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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/642,835	08/14/2003	Yuk Cheung Au	P/4076-58	4066
2352	7590	10/03/2005	EXAMINER	
OSTROLENK FABER GERB & SOFFEN 1180 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS NEW YORK, NY 100368403			ALIE, GHASSEM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3724	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/642,835	AU ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ghassem Alie	3724	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 8/11/05(F.1-2)&9/24/05(F.3-4) is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kropf et al. (5,941,150), hereinafter Kropf. Regarding claim 1, Kropf teaches an apparatus 11 for indexing a length of film or paper P for severance. Kropf also teaches that the apparatus includes a linear feeding device 31 operative to hold the film and to feed a predetermined amount of film to a trimming device 53, 55 by moving linearly between an initial position and another position towards the trimming device 53, 55. Kropf also teaches a film holder between the linear feeding device 31 and the trimming device 53, 55 on the in-feed side of the trimming device that is operable between a first position wherein a gap 27 is provided for the film P to pass through during the feeding to the trimming device 53, 55. The bottom section of the arm 65, left hand side of the trimming device 53, 55, defines the film holder. See Fig. 2 in Kropf. The film holder is located between the linear feeding device 31 and the trimming device 53, 55. It should be noted that as the linear feeding device slides towards the trimming device the film holder clamps the film. As the linear feeder passes the film holder device, the trimming device 53, 55 sever the film while the holding device holds the film. It should also be noted that film holder is located on the in-feed side of the trimming device 53, 55. Kropf also teaches that the film holder is operable to a second position for clamping the film while the trimming device 53, 55, severs the film. It should also be noted that the bottom section of

the arm member holds the film P while trimming device 53, 55 cuts the film. See Figs. 1-5 and col. 4, lines 1-61 in Kropf.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price et al. (2,657,926), hereinafter Price. Regarding claim 1, Price teaches an apparatus for indexing a length of film 17 for severance. Price also teaches that the apparatus includes a linear feeding device 20 operative to hold the film 17 and to feed a predetermined amount of film 17 to a trimming device 52 by moving linearly between an initial position and another position towards the trimming device 52. Price also teaches a film holder 17 between the linear feeding device 20 and the trimming device 53 that is operable between a first position wherein a gap is provided for the film 17 to pass through during the feeding to the trimming device 52 and a second position. The holding means 70 is located between the feeding device 20 and the cutting device 52. See Fig. 2 in Price. Price also teaches that the film holder 70 is operable to the second position for clamping the film 17 when severing the film 17 with the trimming device 52. See Figs. 1-3 and col. 3, lines 14-73 in Price. Price does not explicitly teach that the film holder is located between the linear feeding device and the trimming device on the in-feed side of the trimming device. However, if the holding device 70 is located on the in-feed side or upstream of the trimming device 52, it would function the

same as is being located downstream of the trimming device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to locate Price's clamping device or holder upstream or on the in-feed side of the trimming device, since the holder functions the same if is located upstream of the trimming device or downstream of the trimming device.

Regarding claim 21, Price teaches everything noted above including that an edge of the film holder is substantially aligned with the trimming device at a position where the trimming device serves the film 17. See Figs. 1 and 2 in Price.

5. Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes et al. (5,079,980), hereinafter Oakes. Regarding claim 1, Price teaches an apparatus for indexing a length of film 17 for severance. Price also teaches that the apparatus includes a linear feeding device 20 operative to hold the film 17 and to feed a predetermined amount of film 17 to a trimming device 52 by moving linearly between an initial position and another position towards the trimming device 52. Price also teaches a film holder 17 between the linear feeding device 20 and the trimming device 53 that is operable between a first position wherein a gap is provided for the film 17 to pass through during the feeding to the trimming device 52. The holding means 70 is located between the feeding device 20 and the cutting device 52. See Fig. 2 in Price. Price also teaches that the film holder 70 is operable to a second position for clamping the film 17 when severing the film 17 with the trimming device 52. See Figs. 1-3 and col. 3, lines 14-73 in Price. Price does not explicitly teach that the film holder is located between the linear feeding device and the trimming device on the in-feed side of the trimming device. However, if the holding device 70 is located on the in-feed side or upstream of the trimming device 52, it would function the same as is being

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located downstream of the trimming device. In addition, the use of holding device located on in-feed side of a trimming device and between a feeding device and the trimming device is well known in the art such as taught by Oakes. Oakes teaches a web trimming machine including a feeding device 56, 58, a holding device 133, and a trimming device 164. Oakes teaches the holding device is located between the feeding device and the trimming device on the in-feed side of the trimming device. See Figs. 7 and 8 and col. 5, lines 56-68 and col. 6, lines 1-62 in Oakes. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to locate Price's holding device on the in-feed side of the trimming device rather than downstream of the trimming device, since in both locations the holding device holds the web during the cutting operations and the end result is the same.

Regarding claim 21, Price teaches everything noted above including that an edge of the film holder is substantially aligned with the trimming device at a position where the trimming device serves the film 17. See Figs. 1 and 2 in Price.

6. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Friberg et al. (3,813,974), hereinafter Friberg. Regarding claim 2, Price, as modified above, teaches everything noted above except that the linear feeder has a vacuum head coupled to a vacuum suction device. However, the use of vacuum head for displacing or moving a product is well known in the art such as taught by Friberg. Friberg teaches a vacuum head 8 for feeding a material 1 forward towards a cutter 12. See Fig. 1-4 and col. 2, lines 31-69 in Friberg. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to replace the gripping heed of the Price's cutting apparatus, as modified by Oakes, with the vacuum heed as taught by Friberg, since

Friberg's gripping head as an alternative for gripping material and moving the material forward functions the same as Price's gripping head.

Regarding claim 3 and 4, Price, as modified above, teaches everything noted above except that the head is changeable for different types of film. However, the use of different support surface for contacting film material or the like is well known in the art such as taught by Bruck (4,716,069). Regarding claim 4, Price as modified by Firberg does not teach a surface the linear feeding device contacting the film is made from material that has low static generation with the film. However, the use of supporting surface for the film from low or anti static material is well known in the such as taught by Bruke (4,716,069).

7. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Igarashi (2002/0039119). Regarding claim 5, Price, as modified by Oakes, teaches everything noted above except a linear encoder coupled to the linear feeding device for determining the position of the linear feeding device. However, the use of encoder with a carriage for a feeder is well known in the art such as taught by Igarashi. Igarashi teaches a linear encoder 9 coupled to a linear carriage 3 for determining the position of the carriage. See Fig. 1 and page 1, paragraphs 3-6 in Igarashi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the feeding device of the Price's cutting apparatus, as modified by Oakes, with the linear encoder as taught by Igarashi in order to determined the position of the feeding device.

8. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Rosenthal (2,214,478) and Ando et al. (2002/0057912), hereinafter Ando. Regarding claim 6, Price, as modified by

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Oakes, teaches everything noted above including a film reel 16 for supplying the length of film. Price, as modified by Oakes, does not teach sensors positioned adjacent to the film reel operative to activate the film reel to release film at particular position of the film with respect to the sensors, whereby a loop is maintainable between the film reel and the surface supporting the film for indexing. However, Rosenthal teaches a film reel 4 for supplying film and a loop, which is maintained between the film reel and a surface for supporting the film. See Figs. 1-4 and col. 1, lines 45-55 and col. 2, lines 1-14 in Rosenthal. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the film of Price' cutting device, as modified by Oakes, with the loop as taught by Rosenthal in order to eliminate the need of supplying power for pulling the film from the reel by the feeding mechanism. Price in view of Oakes and Rosenthal does not teach that the sensors maintain the loop on the film. However, the use of sensors to maintain the loop on the film is well known in the art such as taught by Ando. Ando teaches loop sensor 112 for sensing the loop portion 108 of the film. See Figs. 3-6 and page 10, paragraphs 108-111 in Ando. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Price' cutting device, as modified by Oakes and Rosenthal, with one or more loop sensors as taught by Ando in order to maintain the loop on the film.

Regarding claim 7, Price, as modified by above, teaches everything noted above including one or more rollers 7 situated between the film reel 4 and the linear feeding device to bring the film substantially level with the surface supporting the film. Se Fig. 1 in Rosenthal.

9. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Von Hofe et al. (3,756,899), hereinafter Hofe. Regarding claim 8, Price teaches everything noted above except a collecting reel to which a baking cover peeled off from the film is coupled, for collecting backing cover peeled off from the film during indexing. However, the use of collecting reel for collecting a baking cover of a film or the like is well known in the art such as taught by Hofe. Hofe teaches a collecting reel 66 for collecting the backing cover of the film L. See Fig. 2B and col. 5, lines 24-62 in Hofe. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art provide Price's cutting device, as modified by Oakes, with the collecting reel as taught by Hofe in order to collect the backing cover of the film.

10. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes and Hofe, as applied to claim 8, and in further view of Moisio (6,297,882). Regarding claim 9, Price as modified by above, does not teach sensors adjacent the backing cover that are operative to sense a distance from the backing cover to the collecting sensors and initiate driving of the collecting reel for collecting backing cover from the film at a predetermined distance of the backing cover to the collecting sensors. However, the use of sensor located at fixed at a predetermined distances from a roll of film or web to initiate driving the roll of film and paper is well known in the art such as taught by Moisio. Moisio teaches sensors 4, 4', 4'' adjacent a backing cover 2 that are operative to sense a distance from the backing cover to the collecting sensors and initiate driving of the collecting reel for collecting backing cover from the film at a predetermined distance of the backing cover to the collecting sensors. See Figs. 1-4 and col. 3, lines 5-65 in Mosios. It would have been

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide Price, as modified by above, with the sensors as taught by Moisio In order to measure the size of the roll of colleting reel and determined when it has to be replaced.

11. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Nam et al. (2002/0109217), hereinafter Nam. Regarding claim 10, Price, as modified above, teaches everything noted above except a pick up device movable between the trimming device and a placement position and an optical device positioned under the pick-up device for inspecting a piece of film on the pick-up device. Nam teaches a pick up device 52 movable between the trimming device 48 and a placement position 66. Se Fig. 4 in Nam. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art provide Price's cutting device with the picking device as taught by Nam in order to pick up the to apply the film on the workpiece. Price, as modified above, does not teach an optical device to inspect a piece of film. However, Official notice is taken that the use of optical devices for inspection of the cut pieces are well known in the art such as is evident in Thomson et al. (5,046,389).

12. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as applied to claim 1, and in further view of Dueck (6,647,872). Regarding claims 11 and 12, Price, as modified above, teaches everything noted above except a sensor to detecting a presence of a length of film. However, the used of sensors to detect end-of-film or workpiece and the use a sensor for detecting a presence of a length of film or workpiece are well known in the art such as taught by Dueck. Ducke teaches a sensor for detecting the presence of workpiece. See Col. 2, lines10-20 in Dueck. It would have been obvious to a

person of ordinary skill in the art provide Price's cutting device, as modified above, with the sensor as taught by Dueck in order to detect the presence of the film.

13. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Price in view of Oakes, as modified in claim 1, and in further view of Yamaguchi et al. (5,239,904), hereinafter Yamaguchi. Price teaches everything noted above except a sensor for detecting end-of-film on and initiating an action to stop feeding film to the trimming device. However, the used of sensors to detect end-of-film or workpiece and the use a sensor for detecting a presence of a length of film or workpiece are well known in the art such as taught by Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi teaches a sensor E for detecting end-of-film on and initiating an action to stop feeding film to the trimming device. See col. 12, lines 1-25 in Yamaguchi. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art provide Price's cutting device, as modified above, with the sensor as taught by Yamaguchi in order to detect the leading end of the film.

Response to Amendment

14. Applicant's arguments filed on 03/24/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument that Kropf does not teach that the film holder is located between the linear feeding device and the trimming device and the does not clamp the film while the film is being served by the trimming device is not persuasive. The bottom section of the arm 65, left hand side of the trimming device 53, 55, defines the film holder. See Fig. 2 in Kropf. The film holder is located between the linear feeding device 31 and the trimming device 53, 55. It should be noted that as the linear feeding device slides towards the trimming

device the film holder clamps the film. As the linear feeder passes the film holder device, the trimming device 53, 55 sever the film while the holding device holds the film. Kropf also teaches that the film holder is operable to a second position for clamping the film while the trimming device 53, 55, severs the film. Kropf also teaches that the film holder is located on the in-feed side of the trimming device 53, 55. It should be noted that the bottom section of the arm member is holding the film P while trimming device 53, 55 cuts the film. See Figs. 1-5 and col. 4, lines 1-61 in Kropf.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ghassem Alie whose telephone number is (571) 272-4501. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Allan Shoap can be reached on (571) 272-4514. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, SEE <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (too-free).

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GA/ga

September 26, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AS', with a long, sweeping diagonal line extending upwards and to the right.

Allan N. Shoap
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700